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Signed: Michelle Chan  
Michelle Chan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 10/606,203 Confirmation No.: 4361  
Applicant : Wesley B. Dong  
Filed : June 25, 2003  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :  
  
Docket No. : 100/16101  
Customer No. : 021569  
Title : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMIZING  
EVAPORATION OF SAMPLE MATERIALS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The references cited on the attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each reference is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR §1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible relevant information.

Applicants believe that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted within three months of the filing date or prior to the first Office Action.

However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit

Appl. No. 10/606,203  
Wesley B. Dong

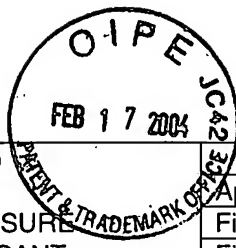
Account No. 03-0177. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the above-noted deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy L. Filler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew L. Filler  
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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |  | Complete if Known      |                |
|  |  | Application Number     | 10/606,203     |
|  |  | Filing Date            | June 25, 2003  |
|  |  | First Named Inventor   | Wesley B. Dong |
|  |  | Art Unit               |                |
| Examiner Name  |  | Attorney Docket Number | 100/16101      |
| Sheet  |  | of                     |                |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |                               |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials     | Cite No. | Document No.                  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |          | Number - Kind Code (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                       | AA       | US-4,657,867                  | 04-14-1987                     | Guhl et al.  |   |
|                       | AB       | US-5,789,251                  | 08-04-1998                     | Astle  |   |
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|                       | AI       |                               |                                |  |   |
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|                       | AK       |                               |                                |  |   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |          |  |                                |  |   |   |
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| Examiner Initials        | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
|                          |          | Country Code - Number - Kind Code (if known) |                                |  |   |   |
|                          | AM       | WO-02/072423                                 | 09/19/2002                     | Biomicro   |   |   |
|                          | AN       | WO-02/087763                                 | 11/07/2002                     | Medical Research C                                 |   |   |
|                          | AO       |  |                                |  |   |   |

| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |          |   |   |
|---|----------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials                                 | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T |
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| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.